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S E C R E T COLOMBO 000165

SIPDIS

NOFORN

OFFICIAL INFORMAL

FOR SA/INS

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TAGS: [AMGT](#) [CE](#) [MV](#)

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL NUMBER 012 (01/28/04)

Classified by Ambassador Jeffrey J. Lunstead for reasons 1.5
b and d.

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TIGERS OFF TO OSLO

1. (SBU) FYI. Per Colombo 150, a LTTE delegation has left Sri Lanka enroute to Oslo. The delegation, led by Tiger political chief S.P. Thamilchelvam, intends to discuss the "urgent humanitarian needs" of the north/east region with officials in Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, and the Netherlands, according to the pro-LTTE website, "TamilNet." The group's European trip is scheduled to last two weeks. In the meantime, Norwegian Ambassador Brattskar met with LTTE Eastern chief Karuna in Batticaloa yesterday. (POL)

ANOTHER CHURCH ATTACK

2. (SBU) FYI. On January 26, a Catholic church located some 15 miles east of Colombo was damaged in a late-night arson attack. This follows two church attacks a week earlier in the same area (Colombo o/i 8, 01-21-04). As in the previous attacks, no one has been injured. The local area police superintendent is quoted as saying he will arrest the alleged attackers within a day or two. This attitude is a positive change inasmuch as local police in the past have appeared unwilling to vigorously track down the perpetrators of the attacks. High-level police officials in Colombo were quoted in the press recently, however, as saying that a crackdown is planned. (POL)

J.R.'s SON DISMISSED FROM DEFENSE JOB

3. (C) FYI. Ravi Jayawardene, son of late President J.R. Jayawardene, was recently let go from his long-held position as Defense Ministry advisor. In the early 1980s, Jayawardene was instrumental in training Sri Lankan special forces who helped quell the JVP's 1987-89 insurrection. While President Kumaratunga's office has denied any link, it is interesting to note that Jayawardene's dismissal follows shortly after the January 20 signing of the SLFP-JVP alliance. Many wonder whether the JVP pressured the President to remove Jayawardene. (POL)

WHERE OH WHERE IS OUR G/TIP CABLE?

4. (U) Mission knows that Sally Neumann, G/TIP officer for South Asia, is currently traveling in the region. Before Ms. Neumann left for her trip, however, Mission cleared on wording to amend our LOA with the National Child Protection Agency for projects approved last August 2003. We had hoped that the front-channel with the wording would have gone out already, but have not seen any sign of it. Would the desk please check with someone in the G/TIP office on the status of the message? These projects are important and we would like to get them moving; one of the projects is aimed at easing the distress of court testimony for juvenile victims of abuse, for example. Thanks! (POL)

STATUS OF MALDIVIAN REQUEST RE DETAINEE?

5. (S/NF) Back in November, Mission conveyed the Maldivian government's formal request for the release of the Maldivian national detained in Guantanamo Bay (see 03 Colombo 2009). According to our DAO, none of his contacts in DoD are aware of any request from State Department on this issue. If the desk would share who the Department has contacted at DoD, DAO here would be happy to follow up. The GoRM has not

inquired about the status of their formal request as of yet,
but we should get back with a placeholder response. Thanks.
(POL/DAO)

LUNSTEAD